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[WO-400 Week Ahead Report for May 22 2017 Final \(1\).docx](#)  
[vol awards 2017 - winner profiles - final.docx](#)

Hi all,

Please find attached the WO 400 Week Ahead Report for the week of May 22th, 2017. We also have a special event this week! Please join us for the BLM's "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Award ceremony on Wednesday, May 24, 1:00 pm, Eastern Time, in MIB Room 5071.

This is the 22nd annual celebration (and the fifth held live via video teleconference) recognizing the outstanding achievements of our volunteers. In 2016, over 27,000 volunteers contributed close to 1 million hours of service to the BLM; this equals nearly \$23 million donated to the BLM by way of our volunteers' service. Our broad and complex mission could not be accomplished without our volunteers across the country.

I look forward to seeing you at the ceremony. Please note, we will start promptly at 1:00 pm and will be LIVE via the video teleconferencing system, connected to seven state offices around the country; so if you attend please arrive a little before 1:00 pm to ensure a smooth opening to our ceremony!

I've also attached the 2017 award recipient profiles.

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*BLM Volunteers of All Ages at the Desert Discover Center, CA*

**Office of National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships**

**Week Ahead Announcements and Actions**

**Week of May 22, 2017**

**• Sierra Club Quarterly Call**

On May 23, Sally Butts will participate in the Sierra Club's quarterly call to share the new priorities for the Department of the Interior and to learn about BLM State-specific issues from various Sierra Club participants.

**• Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit Network Council Meeting**

On May 23, Mara Alexander will participate in the Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit Network Council Meeting to discuss renewal determinations for multiple units, the interagency MOU, host institution coordination support, policy and guidance, national office updates, minority fellowships, and the 2018 national meeting.

**• BLM "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Awards ceremony**

On May 24, the BLM "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Awards ceremony will take place at 1:00 p.m. in the Main Interior Building and at selected field sites via video conference. Eight winners from seven BLM States will be honored. Rich Cardinale, Chief of Staff for the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, and Mike Nedd, BLM Acting Director, will open with comments and BLM employees will be able to view via live link.

**• Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers**

On May 25, Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers will be at Pompeys Pillar National Monument, MT. They'll participate in a school fieldtrip rotation through exhibits and booths on various topics.

**• Wild and Scenic River Act/National Trails System Act 50th Anniversary Planning**

In the month of May, in preparation for the 50th anniversaries of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

and the National Trails System Act in 2018, the BLM, other Federal agencies, and private partners will be actively involved in communicating achievements, public education efforts, and events. Cathi Bailey, National Rivers Program Lead, and Deb Salt, National Trails Program Lead, are leading BLM's involvement. Bob Wick, Wilderness Specialist, Rachel Wootton, Planning and Environmental Specialist, and Amy Krause, New Media Lead, are the representatives for the communications meetings. Sally Butts will participate in the monthly federal leadership meeting.

- **National Monument Review**

Utah BLM has submitted the data requested for Bears Ears and Grand Staircase NM's. The WO is reviewing and will submit the draft report to the Review Team. WO400 is coordinating with the USFS team representative to set up a "lessons learned" call for state offices later in the week to provide any assistance with the data call for the remainder of the monuments using feedback from Bears Ears and Grand Staircase. BIA listening sessions begin May 25<sup>th</sup> in Portland, OR. WO400 is coordinating with the BLM State Directors and BIA to identify BLM representatives for each listening sessions. Agency review teams are also being set up in preparation for comment review.

- **30-60 Day Look-Ahead**

On June 5-7, the BLM will participate in the Great Outdoors U.S.A. Zone, at the U.S. Travel Association's International "IPW" Travel and Tourism event in DC. The Great Outdoors event is a key attraction and provider of information for IPW participants, which partners with Brand USA and the U.S. Travel Association. In addition to the Department of Interior, other participants include the Department of Commerce and the National Office of Travel & Tourism; State Department, Outdoor Industries Association, Rec.gov, National Park Service, State Department, and others. Angela West is managing the America's Great Outdoors Interagency Booth, comprised of US Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, and the Smithsonian Institute.

On June 7, Bob Wick will participate as a speaker on an interagency webinar hosted by the Arthur Carhart Wilderness Training Center on unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and drone use in wilderness areas.

On June 24-26, Bob Wick will participate and host an exhibit at the Outdoor Writers Conference in Duluth, MN in coordination with the Milwaukee District. The exhibit will focus on hunting and fishing on BLM lands and the upcoming National Trails and Wild and Scenic Rivers 50th Anniversaries.

On June 26-30, Mary Isaac will attend the BLM Budget Officer's Training in Salt Lake City, UT.

On July 9-15, the Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress will be held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. WO-420 has shared

information with State Youth Leads about the opportunity for tribal youth of high school age to participate and opportunities. BLM plans to have four junior faculty (college students) and one BLM staff faculty from Arizona serve as faculty mentors for the tribal youth.

On July 10, Bob Wick, WO Wilderness Specialist, will attend the 2017 WAFWA July Summer Meeting in Vail, CO. He will also represent WO400 on a panel as part of the State/Federal/Tribal Communications Committee meeting. Other invited panelists include Jim Unsworth, Director Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – moderator, Jim deVos AZ Game Chief, John Kennedy, Deputy Director, WY Fish and Game, Virgil Moore, Director, Idaho Fish and Game, Rob Harper, Director Water Fish Wildlife Air and Rare Plants, USFS, and Elaine Leslie, Director of the Biological Resource Division NPS.

On July 17-29, the National Scout Jamboree (held every four years) will take place at the Boy Scouts of America's Summit Bechtel Reserve in Glen Jean, WV. The Eastern States Office is coordinating BLM participation on the Jamboree's Conservation Trail, with assistance from the Division of Education, Interpretation, and Partnerships (WO-420) and other BLM Headquarters divisions.

On June 19-23, Rachel Wootton and Clayton Schmidt will participate in the BLM web workshop at the National Operations Center in Denver, CO. BLM web and Public Affairs specialists will gather there to provide some intensive effort to improve the BLM's website and web pages.

## **BLM'S 2017 "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNERS**

### **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT**

**TERESITA "TERE" CALDERON, CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT OFFICE, CA:** Tere Calderon began volunteering with the BLM at the Los Angeles County Fair in 2011, helping to host the Backcountry Horsemen exhibit, teaching Leave No Trace principles, and working with live native reptiles. But in 2012, Tere found her true passion in the “coolest place at the LA County Fair”: a re-creation of the General Land Office, a precursor agency to the BLM. Using simple props such as maps, a surveyor’s chain, old books, and a theodolite (land surveying instrument), Tere tells the story of how western wildlands were surveyed, guiding history enthusiasts on a “walk through time.” Thanks to Tere’s skill and enthusiasm for making the past come alive, this reproduction of an 1800’s GLO outpost has gained a reputation as one of the most interesting and educational exhibits at the fair; students at some local schools even receive extra credit for participating. The journey concludes with the opportunity to emboss the official GLO seal on a souvenir “patent”—featuring hand calligraphy by Tere, of course—for an imaginary 654 million acres of public lands. Tere has been an invaluable ambassador for the BLM, underscoring the BLM’s mission to serve current and future generations, encouraging fair visitors to explore the public lands for themselves, and stressing the importance of responsible stewardship.

**JANICE SHEPHERD, GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE, CO:** Outgoing, energetic, and passionate about public lands stewardship, Janice Shepherd is a retired computer programmer who has made significant contributions to the Grand Junction Field Office since beginning her volunteer service there in 2010. She has worked with BLM cultural resources, rangelands, planning, and recreation staff members throughout the jurisdiction of the field office and its two national conservation areas. A hiker and geocacher who loves to explore, Janice completed an inventory of climbing sites within the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, gathering and processing GPS data and photo-documenting climbing routes. She is a trained Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado crew leader and trail monitor, regularly contributing to trail maintenance and construction projects. Janice has also been instrumental in the coordination of annual National Public Lands Day cleanups, enlisting the aid of BLM resource staff as well as partner organizations such as Great Old Broads for Wilderness (of which she is a proud member). She is also a trained cultural resources site steward, and is so capable with tasks from field work to paperwork that BLM archaeologists trust her to prepare documentation on even priceless, isolated finds. She is currently working on a report of such finds that will be reviewed and shared with the State Historic Preservation Officer. Janice provides a much-needed extra set of eyes and ears in the field: with more than six years of volunteer work under her belt, she recognizes and reports potential resource issues so BLM staff can respond promptly.

## **OUTSTANDING YOUTH**

**ETHAN DIAZ, COLORADO RIVER VALLEY FIELD OFFICE, CO:** In 2016, the BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office launched a new volunteer program in collaboration with Grand Valley High School in Parachute, Colorado, to offer students and recent graduates opportunities for work experience in public land management. Ethan Diaz, 15 years old, stepped up as a volunteer BLM Park Ranger during the summer between his freshman and sophomore years, ultimately contributing 420 hours of his time. During his service, Ethan completed a variety of field work projects, including sage-grouse habitat maintenance and inventory updates for lands with wilderness characteristics. He also eagerly learned GPS mapping techniques and used that knowledge to collect data points for monitoring of Wilderness Study Areas and invasive plant species. Ethan showed great interest in land and resource management issues, assisting BLM specialists with field work in recreation, fisheries, oil and gas, and wildlife biology programs. In addition, he rearranged the field office's recreation storeroom and equipment, and developed new systems to increase efficiency in storing and filing documents, including special recreation permits and applications for permits to drill. Ethan's organizational skills and aptitude for field work provided valuable support to BLM resource specialists during a busy field season.

**ALEXIS WORTHEN, NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS INTERPRETIVE CENTER, WY & CONNOR WORTHEN, NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS INTERPRETIVE CENTER, WY:** Since 2013, siblings Alexis and Connor Worthen have volunteered together for the BLM's National Historic Trails Interpretive Center (NHTIC). It is rare to meet two young people so dedicated to telling visitors of all ages the stories of the celebrated trails used by 19<sup>th</sup>-century pioneers, stagecoaches, and the Pony Express. Today, when youth technology use is ever-increasing, it is heartening to hear this brother-and-sister team passionately tell the story of a bygone age, when wagons valued transportation modes and rock inscriptions were innovative communication forms. Alexis and Connor also guide schoolchildren through the facility, describing the human drama that played out long ago on the historic trails. The pair's affable personalities and excellent public speaking skills truly bring trails' history and the nation's heritage alive. Alexis and Connor set a stellar example for today's youth, conveying that studying history is exciting as well as educational.

## **GROUP EXCELLENCE**

**FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS, WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT OFFICE, NV:** Friends of Nevada Wilderness (FNW), a partner organization that supports the BLM's Winnemucca District, is comprised of skilled and dedicated volunteers who embody public lands stewardship at its finest. Almost all FNW members live in Reno, so Winnemucca District projects are at least two hours away by car; yet these stalwart volunteers are willing to spend their time, money, and gas to serve on remote BLM lands, devoting their weekends to enhancing the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (BR NCA). In 2016, the Friends tended to Soldier Meadows Cabin and campground, installing cabin steps, painting walls and benches, and cleaning fireplaces. Thirteen FNW volunteers also participated in the first annual Desert Dace Days, a project to improve habitat for the threatened desert dace, a fish species found only in springs and creeks at Soldier Meadows. FNW also maintained the Upper

High Rock Canyon Trail, installed wilderness boundary markers, removed debris from wilderness areas, and hauled hundreds of pounds of trash from public lands. The Friends joined other partners to plan and conduct activities at the Black Rock Rendezvous, a large public education and service event. FNW members also volunteered at the famous Burning Man arts festival, where they assisted BLM staff teaching visitors about the playa's cultural, historic, and natural features, including the threatened fairy shrimp that hatch during spring floods. FNW volunteers also monitor recreation sites and report issues to the BLM in this sparsely staffed area. Their efforts have truly made a difference, ensuring that the BR NCA remains a treasure for future generations to enjoy.

### **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**

**NORM JENSEN, BLM COTTONWOOD FIELD OFFICE, IDAHO:** Now 83 years old, Norm has been a volunteer camp host on the Clearwater River for 13 years and counting. He began his service at the BLM's Pink House Recreation Site and three years later moved 20 miles downstream to McKay's Bend Campground, where he still volunteers today. Norm's duties include greeting visitors, communicating camp rules, maintaining facilities, landscaping grounds, and—perhaps most important—serving as the sole BLM presence in this location. Norm has so far contributed more than 28,000 hours of time as a volunteer; interacting with at least 225,000 visitors. Remarkably, the results of a 2011 BLM customer survey revealed that 100 % of McKay's Bend visitors were satisfied with the facilities, services, and recreational opportunities there—thanks in large part to Norm's outstanding efforts. But his impact has been of the personal variety, too; recreationists report that they often return to the campground just for the opportunity to visit with their friend Norm.

**RICH & LINDA CROOKS, YAQUINA HEAD OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA, OR:** Since 1999, Rich and Linda Crooks have served as volunteer interpretive hosts at the BLM's Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) on the central Oregon coast. The Crooks have lived on-site several months each year and together have contributed well over 7,000 hours in their 18 years of service there. Over the years, the Crooks have done it all. They were two of the first guides to provide Yaquina Head Light Station tours to visitors. Rich designed the site's "host neighborhood," which now features three trailer pads used for year-round volunteer housing, allowing Yaquina Head's volunteer cadre to grow. Linda hand-sewed several historically accurate "lighthouse keeper's wife" costumes and repaired countless others. The Crooks discuss visitor safety and resource protection in the ONA's tide pool area, encourage youngsters to become BLM Junior Rangers, and help to shape memorable experiences for ONA visitors. Thanks to their years of experience, Rich and Linda have also offered valuable suggestions to improve the ONA's operations, visitor services, volunteer program, and even its current recreation management planning process. Not only have the Crooks been volunteering with the BLM for 18 years, during those same years they've also volunteered with the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department at nearby Yaquina Bay Lighthouse. With this long record of service to both Federal and State public lands, the Crooks are surely remarkable, in a category all their own.

**EMPLOYEE WINNER**

**CLAY STEWART, KANAB FIELD OFFICE, UT:** Clay Stewart is an outdoor recreation planner who was an original member of the BLM's Paria Management Team, which is tasked with managing recreation in some of the wildest backcountry in the nation: the Paria Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The SRMA encompasses such stunning locales as Coyote Buttes North (more famously known as "The Wave"), Paria Canyon, and Buckskin Gulch. All host incredible geologic features, including some of the longest slot canyons in the world. Permits to hike in the SRMA are limited and highly sought after, but seasonal extremes of temperature and weather can overwhelm novices. Temperatures range from freezing to well over 100° F. Snow, ice, rain, and flash floods are common. The natural elements, the remote, rugged landscape, and the lack of services, roads, and marked trails often pose serious trouble. In 2013, three visitors died at Coyote Buttes North. In response, the Paria Management Team developed a wilderness volunteer program to increase the number of SRMA patrols, with a special emphasis on The Wave. Although the team's composition varied yearly, Clay Stewart remained, consistently dedicated to improving recreationists' safety. Today, thanks to Clay's efforts, BLM staff and volunteers provide seven-day coverage during the area's hottest months, May through September. Patrol members carry water and provide a presence in case of emergency. In the summer of 2016 alone, Clay's volunteers helped more than 100 people in the SRMA; some needed only bottled water, others actual lifesaving services. Clay would be the first to give all credit to other BLM staff and volunteers. But these safety improvements would not have been made without Clay's efforts as the area's volunteer program coordinator. Clay truly is an employee who has gone above and beyond to make a difference.